

#### **4.2.8.8 Socioeconomics**

##### **Preferred Alternative: No Action Alternative**

**Regional Economy Characteristics.** Total employment in the REA is projected to increase less than 2 percent annually between 1995 and 2000, reaching 122,000 in the latter year. Long-range projections indicate slower growth after the year 2000, when employment would increase over 1 percent annually and reach approximately 179,300 persons in 2040. Unemployment in the REA was 6.2 percent in 1994 and is expected to remain at this level into the near future. Per capita income is projected to increase from approximately \$18,259 in 1995 to \$29,221 in 2040. Projections for the No Action Alternative are presented in Table L-73.

**Population and Housing.** Population in the ROI is projected to increase from approximately 169,900 in 1995 to 272,000 by 2040. The total number of housing units in the ROI is projected to increase from about 71,100 in 1995 to 113,900 in 2040. Population and housing projections for the No Action Alternative are presented in Tables L-74 and L-75, respectively.

**Community Services.** Education, public safety, and health care characteristics are used to assess the level of community services in the LANL ROI. School enrollments are projected to increase from about 26,310 students in 1995 to 42,130 students by 2040. The current student-to-teacher ratio is 17.3:1. To maintain this level of service, the number of teachers in the ROI would need to increase from approximately 1,518 in 1995 to 2,431 in 2040. These projections are presented in Tables L-76 and L-77.

The projected numbers of sworn police officers and firefighters serving in ROI communities over the period 1995 to 2040 are shown in Tables L-78 and L-79, respectively. Under No Action, the number of sworn police officers is projected to increase from approximately 267 in 1995 to 428 in 2040 to maintain the current service level of 1.6 sworn officers per 1,000 persons. The number of firefighters in the ROI would need to increase from about 800 in 1995 to 1,280 in 2040 to maintain the present service level of 4.7 firefighters per 1,000 persons.

Hospital occupancy rates are based on current capacity. These rates and the estimated number of practicing physicians serving the ROI population between 1995 and 2040 are presented in Tables L-80 and L-81, respectively. Hospital occupancy rates are projected to increase from approximately 32 percent in 1995 to 51 percent in 2040. To maintain the current physician-to-population ratio of 1.9 per 1,000 persons, the total number of physicians in the ROI would need to increase from approximately 316 in 1995 to 506 in 2040.

**Local Transportation.** Any increases in traffic would be due to projected growth in the area unrelated to DOE activities. The only alternative considered at LANL is Phaseout which involves no change in employment. Since there would be no impacts, modeling was not performed.

##### **Phaseout**

Phasing out of Pu storage at LANL would result in no loss of jobs in the REA. Workers currently employed in this storage area would be relocated to other areas. Thus, the socioeconomic effects for Phaseout would be the same as discussed under No Action (Socio 1996a).